Def. Doc. No. 2729

Excerpt from "International Law and the World War" by James Wilford Garner - Vol. 1

27. TREATMENT OF DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES FOLLOWING THE OUTBREAK OF WAR.

On account of the intense bitterness and excitement which prevailed in some of the capitals at the outbreak of the war, the diplomatic and consular representatives of enemy powers were subjected to discourteous treatment and even to gross indignities, in violation of the customary immunities. Practically all writers on international law hold that diplomatic representatives are entitled by a long-established customary rule of the law of nations to have their diplomatic immunities and privileges respected after the rupture of diplomatic relations and until they have had a reasonable time to withdraw from the enemy country and return to their own land. During this period they are entitled to protection and respect, and it is customary to provide special facilities for their transportation to the frontier of the country from which they are withdrawing. If, of course, a minister insists on remaining in the enemy's country longer than is reasonably necessary for him to withdraw, he loses his diplomatic immunities and may be made a prisoner of war. (pp 39-40)

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